

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A fluidized cellulosic polymer suspension of a cellulosic polymer in an alkali formate containing solution is particularly efficacious in the thickening of brines, particularly high density brines, in the recovery of oil and/or gas from a subterranean formation. The alkali formate containing solution preferably has between about 40 to about 75 weight percent of alkali formate. Preferred as alkali formate are potassium formate, cesium formate and a mixture thereof. The true crystallization temperature (TCT) of the alkali formate solution is preferably less than or equal to 20°, more preferably less than or equal to 18° F., most preferably less than or equal to 10° F., ideally less than or equal to 0° F. The alkali formate solution serves as the carrier fluid, allowing the cellulose to be easily metered into the brine, thereby allowing hydration without the formation of fisheyes.